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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES!

We again had a fantastic time in the park during the school Autumn Half Term Holiday and Christmas Holiday.

During the Halloween period, Ange and her crew worked their socks off running a Pumpkin Heroes Activity Camp for 4 days. Our local children took part in outdoor nature challenges, backwards cooking, mindfulness sessions, treasure hunts, arts and crafts and much more. We ended the activities with a Halloween Village 'Trick or Treat' fun day, run by one of our volunteers, Kate. The children all received healthy lunches each day. Committee members put together 90 food parcels which included Halloween based recipes, lots of ingredients and a small gift voucher to buy any missing ingredients.

Just before Christmas, the grown-ups wreath making workshop was a great success. This event was run once again by Ange and will now be an annual event.

Four days of activities were organized for the children between Christmas and New Year. Fantastic Mental Health and other activity packs were available for those who attended. The children also enjoyed a private showing of the film, Mathilda the Musical and a carvery meal at Toby's on Queens Drive. We obtained funding for all these activities from HAF (Holiday activities and food programme). The mental health boxes were donated by @BoatofHope.

We can't thank our volunteers enough for their hard work, finding funding and putting these activities together. You can find photos of these sessions on our social media and website.

We may not be able to continue with these events during school holidays as HAF funding criteria is now that 90% of attendees must be on free school meals. We will try our best to find alternative sources of funding.

We are looking to run an Easter Egg hunt and will send out further details soon.

We always have lots of applications for places at our events. We often have to turn people down and put names on our waiting list. Unfortunately, we have had a significant number of 'no shows' which is quite upsetting. These places could have been used by children on the waiting list. We had a limited number of spaces for the wreath making and a long waiting list of ladies who would have liked to attend. Less than half of those who booked a place turned up.



PARK RE-INSTATEMENT

As you can see, work is happening in the park. Alder Hey have installed the MUGA, laying paths and disappointingly, knocked down the sub-station that we wanted to turn into a community hub.

We are going to try and get Liverpool City Council to allow us to retain the existing play area and replace the equipment. We already have funding from Lady Anne Dodd for an accessible swing. For this permission, we are reliant on LCC stopping Alder Hey from demolishing it. Why shouldn't we have two play areas?

Have you seen and signed the 'Save our Trees' petition set up by a local resident? We are supporting this petition with all of our might. Here is a QR code that will take you straight to the petition. If you would like to collect signatures, get in touch and we can get paper copies of the petition to you. At the time of writing, there are over 2000 signatures, digitally and on paper.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Our litter picking will recommence next month. If you can spare an hour, please meet us by the container at 11:30 am on the last Saturday of each month. Litter picking will take place each month now right through to Autumn.

Our compost boxes, provided by Compost Works, are now 14 months old and going strong. The first bin is sealed and maturing. We are now working on filling the middle bin. The contents are a bit wet at the moment and would benefit from some shredded paper. There is still space for another 20 users. Get in touch if you would like a compost storage box and we can organize one for you. We also need volunteers who can turn the compost over. This needs to be done every five weeks or so. If you can spare a little time and are happy to go on a rota, please let us know.

We are currently working with Miss Schenck from Holly Lodge Secondary School and their community policeman, PC Edmond, on a brand-new project. A group of pupils from Y8 and Y9 have shown an interest in getting involved with the park and have set up a community group. They have already spent a morning in the park with us, litter picking. The pupils really enjoyed themselves and are full of enthusiasm and ideas for what we can achieve in the park.

SPRINGTIME IN THE PARK

It's nearly time for work to begin on our raised beds. All the summer annuals in the beds, attracted many admiring comments last year and finally succumbed to the winter frosts and



the snow of mid-December. Hopefully the perennials planted along the fence line have made it through. The spring bulbs that were planted in previous years, such as snowdrops, crocus and daffodils are now out with Muscari and hyacinths not far behind.

Filling the beds with plants that attracted pollinators was a great success. Hopefully this year we will again attract many winged insect visitors such as hoverflies, white, comma and skipper butterflies, various bumblebees and solitary bees, such as the hairy footed flower bee.

We are always looking for any green-fingered volunteers to help out with planting and watering. Please get in touch if you can spare some time.

Thanks to Keith, Laura, the scouts and everyone else who does so much to keep our corner of the park by the containers bright and colourful.

CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

With a new year of park activities ahead of us, we are always looking for volunteers to help out in the park, or come on to the committee with a specific role. Maybe you enjoy table tennis and can spare an hour a week to run a 'bat and chat' tournament/league? Maybe you would like to organise and look after our containers? Maybe you would like to help out maintaining the flower and vegetable beds? You may have super ideas yourself of activities you would like to see in the park. We appreciate that not everyone has the time or energy to do physical work but there are lots of ways to get involved behind the scenes such as fundraising, sourcing grants and donations and communications, such as updating social media. We try hard to keep our social media up to date but the more people helping out would benefit our community.

Would you be interested in joining a private Facebook group where we could share ideas and post pictures of park activities? You could even post comments to other members such as "I'm off to the park for a walk. Does anyone fancy joining me?" Let's build our community up. Please send an email with your Facebook details if you are interested and we will add you to the group.

THANK YOU

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, partners and other local Friends of Park groups for all their hard work, knowledge and support. Here are some photos from Laura to remind us of what's to come.



The Friends of Springfield Park Committee

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